

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MINUTES



MEDFORD
OREGON

July 27, 2022
12:30 P.M.
Virtual Meeting

Call to Order: 12:30pm

10. Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

Dennie Conrad
Tyler Jasper
Kim Parducci
Peggy Penland
Jared Pulver
Suzanne Schroeder
Jason Stranberg

Commissioners Absent:

Jay Harland, excused

Council Liaison Present:

Staff Present:

Karl MacNair, Public Works
Debra Royal, Public Works

20. Approval of Minutes from May 25, 2022

There being no additions or corrections, the May 25, 2022 minutes were approved as presented.

30. Oral Requests and Communications from the Audience

None.

40. Action Items

None.

50. Discussion Items

50.1 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Update – Delays Resulting from BUILD

Mr. MacNair shared that the BUILD project work is nearly complete, therefore projects that have been on hold are being prioritized. He discussed the budgeted projects, contingency projects, and non-budgeted capital improvement projects. Most of the projects are from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which is federal COVID relief funding. There is also a potential new non-ARPA Safe Routes to School project.

The top priority projects include S. Stage and Foothill Road (BUILD). After they are complete, Priority A projects will be prioritized. These include: Stevens Street improvements, the three Safe Routes to School projects, and Alley A-48. These are top priorities because the grants have timelines attached.

Most Contingency Projects are not moving forward, but one that is, is the high priority state grant funded project to reconstruct the Larson Creek Greenway between Black Oak and Murphy roads.

Sidewalk projects are also high priority are Liberty Park and city-wide infills near low-income schools, which is the project for which the City is asking an addition \$2M to the \$3M already earmarked.

The final section of the spreadsheet are projects that will be funded with City and State ARPA dollars. The City will put \$2.5M towards projects that come out of the Exit 27 Alternative Mobility Target Study. The City is having discussions with ODOT to identify which projects will be funded from that funding source. ADA projects will help offset some of the paving dollars that have been required to be used on ADA ramps over the last several years. Traffic signal battery backups will be installed at the City's larger/busier intersections to keep signals running during power outages.

Commissioner Stranberg asked how the budgets were holding up on all the projects. Mr. MacNair said he would know more in November, but that the BUILD project is expected to be over the initial budget of \$40M. On other projects such as Safe Routes to Schools, the estimates have not been looked at in the last few years. Hopefully with the contingency, the projects can be delivered within budget. Some of the ARPA funded projects are more recent, so those budgets are more likely to stay on track. There have been significant increases in construction costs in the last two years, so the paving done this year has come in over budget. Next year's list of paving has been cut to compensate. Striping done recently came in right near the Engineer's Estimate. With costs changing so quickly, it is difficult to anticipate when they will plateau.

Commissioner Stranberg asked about ODOT examining the change of the S. Stage Road overcrossing to a full exchange. Mr. MacNair said ODOT is conducting a study later this year to

answer that question. The study is to determine the real benefit to the transportation system of having an interchange.

Commissioner Parducci asked for clarification about the Owen Drive public-private partnership. Mr. MacNair said that had to do with the design. The design has largely been completed by the private side, and the City will have budgeted for the construction.

Chair Conrad asked about the progress of the BUILD project. Mr. MacNair said the current activity is the advanced utility work. As far as the City's part of the project, Public Works will turn in the 500 pages of plans to ODOT in two days. The bid goes out in November. Construction is expected to start in early 2023. It is estimated to be a two+ year construction timeline. Chair Conrad asked if there has been feedback from residents. Mr. MacNair stated that when the work first started, there were a few complaints. Public Works has been doing a lot of public outreach to get the word out that this is the beginning of a long process. Construction will be done in phases starting at McAndrews.

Commissioner Jasper asked if the backup batteries for traffic lights would be freestanding. Mr. MacNair described the batteries as small enough to fit in the signal cabinet. It's a newer version of battery backup. Commissioner Jasper opined that perhaps this is treatment for a symptom rather than a solution for the problem of power outages, and wondered why we are having outages. Mr. MacNair said that Pacific Power is the provider and there is not much the City can do as a customer.

60. Commission Remarks and Committee Reports

Commissioner Schroeder said BPAC did not meet in July.

Commissioner Schroeder asked if the City had a vision for making space for multimodal transportation specifically electric scooters. Mr. MacNair said there are many aspects including riding, parking, and charging. As far as parking, it is expected they will be treated like bicycles. The City already has Bird scooters as a pilot program. The Planning Department is working on some charging stations and developing an understanding of what the opportunities are and when and how the City should participate in this arena. Riding scooters are being treated like bicycles. The City is starting to build more comfortable lower stress bike cross sections that are listed in the TSP. That extra width will allow for some padding for the riders. There is not a holistic vision even in larger cities that are trying to figure out how much things are changing.

Commissioner Penland said the Traffic Coordinating Committee has not met for several months due to staff resignations. However there is a meeting tomorrow.

Commissioner Stranberg had no report from TRADCO as there was no meeting this month.

Commissioner Jasper said the Parking Committee discussed future downtown residential parking demands. Multimodal issues were reviewed. There are no major changes or initiated at this time.

Commissioner Pulver asked about current restriping and standard lane widths. Mr. MacNair said there are guidelines not standards. The typical vehicle lane is 11 feet. Separated bike lanes have a 12 foot vehicle lane as it is a curb-tight cross section. Existing roads may not follow these; for example, Barnett Road has curb-tight 11 foot lanes. When looking at an existing street and restriping, AASHTO Green Book is used. AASHTO recommends eight to 14 feet. Medford's standard is 11 feet, but it has gone down to 10 feet. Tripp Street has had eight and one half foot travel lanes for a long time. Commissioner Parducci discussed her concern about the narrowness of streets.

70. Staff Reports

Mr. MacNair shared that grant applications are being submitted. One to RVMPO in April. The application was presented to: Technical Advisory Committee, Public Policy Advisory Committee, and Policy Committee. Technical Advisory Committee made a recommendation the Policy Committee still needs to adopt. The street sweeper request was dropped as the manufacturers could not commit that they could meet the Buy America requirements that accompany federal funding.

Table Rock Road design and right-of-way and Delta Waters infill are both recommended for funding.

Safe Routes to School application for an additional \$2M has been submitted. The deadline is July 31.

Overlays and restriping are currently underway. Work on McAndrews is getting press coverage, so there have been citizen questions and comments.

The consultants for the Riverside/Central/E. Main multimodal study have finished the first Technical Memo. The results will be incorporated into an online open house. That will go live August 10. More advertising is being done to enlist public input including an ad in the Mail Tribune.

80. Agenda Build

80.1 South Medford Exit 27 Alternate Mobility Targets

80.2 Main, Riverside, Central Multimodal Study Update (September)

90. Adjournment – 1:15pm Next Meeting – August 24, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Royal, Public Works Engineering